“In gaining knowledge, each area of knowledge uses a network of ways of knowing.” Discuss this statement with reference to two AOKs

Discuss: Offer a considered and balanced review of a particular topic. Opinions or conclusions should be presented clearly and supported by empirical evidence and sound argument.

Key words and phrases: network of ways of knowing; gaining knowledge; two AOKs

AOKs/AOK chosen: The human sciences, the natural sciences

WOKs/WOK chosen: Intuition, reason, imagination, emotion, faith, sense perception and memory

**Human sciences**

1. Psychology

The biological level of analysis: Reason

Reason: since specific biological aspects of the brain are invisible to the eye (even with the use of MRI/fMRI) reason is employed in the hypothesis that biology affects psychological processes

* + BLOA involves understanding biology on a neurological level
  + Structure and function of neurons and how it relates to neurotransmitter uptake: the role of neurotransmitters (serotonin, oxytocin, ADH) and its effect on the human body
  + Martinez and Kesner: the effect of acetylcholine on memory

The cognitive level of analysis: sense perception + memory

* Yuille and Cutshall: memory is less reliable than we think, our memory and intuition can change based on the words researchers use in describing a situation
* Sense perception + memory: what we perceive with out senses and how we remember it is not necessarily accurate

Conformity and compliance: emotion + faith

* Understanding the reasoning behind genocide and human willingness to take orders
* Milgram et al.=electrical volt shock study that found humans comply a lot more with authority than expected
* Emotion: the moral dilemma that is presented in Milgram et al. and also in the classic Trolley Problem teaches us about human psychology and the willingness to conform
* Reasoning behind ISIS and why it is so attractive to the Islamic youth: emotion + faith
* Under what historical conditions are compliance techniques especially effective: is it correlated with the economic condition of the country? WOKs: Intuition + reason + memory

2. History

* As we discussed in class, History can never be learned in isolation of other WOKs
* Economics + art +natural sciences make up history
* A historical comparison of art: how art from communist countries differs from the art of socialist countries WOKs: emotion + imagination
* Emotion and imagination are reflected in the works of art🡪the changes over history reveal national sentiment at that point in time
* How fashion reflects the history and progressiveness of a nation: what does the shortening of skirt hemlines mean for countries over the course of history? Is it correlated with female empowerment or vice versa? (AOK: reason)

3. Economics

* Market morality: ethics + economics + psychology
* WOK: emotion, reason, sense perception
* Using sense perception and emotion to manipulate reason in customers
* The morality of consumer exploitation-gambling, tobacco industry
* Ethics of using psychological data to tempt consumers into buying more

**Natural Sciences**

1. Biology

* Genetic manipulation/abortion/euthanasia: reason + emotion + faith
* Is biological manipulation of human life ever ethical?
* Under what conditions is the crossover between natural sciences and ethics justified?
* Data gained from Nazi experiments on Jews-is it ethical to use this data?
* Are genetically modified food products ethical?
* Monsanto’s monopoly on pesticides: ethics + economy + natural sciences
* Monsanto: Falsifying research data involving the pesticide industry

Knowledge issues: How many WOKs need to be involved in order for one to “gain knowledge”?

Can information within an AOK be gained without using a network of WOKs?

To what extent are the WOKs limited in establishing the basis of knowledge gain?

Assumptions: Knowledge cannot be gained by a singular WOK

Every area of knowledge can only be established with reference to more than one WOK

The WOKs overlap in their proof of knowledge